



AGA NEWSLETTER

MAINE
CHAPTER

October 2008

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 7

Monthly Chapter Meeting
with Jonathan Wayne
Executive Committee Meeting

October 15

Audio Conference –
AGA Research Project on
Performance Based Reporting

October 27-28

AGA National Performance
Management Conference

November 4

Monthly Chapter Meeting
with Crystal Canney

See page 2 for more information.

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President's Message, from Bill Fox

The 2008-2009 AGA operating year is off to an excellent start. Our first luncheon meeting was held on September 20, 2008 at the Senator Inn. The meeting was well attended as David Leach, Principal Consumer Credit Examiner with the Bureau of Consumer Protection presented information on credit card fraud. Our next meeting is a breakfast meeting, on October 7th at the Senator Inn in Augusta, with registration beginning at 7:00am. We hope to see you there.

We continue our efforts to provide informative presentations and continuing education opportunities. On October 15, 2008, we have scheduled an audio conference titled: AGA Research Project on Performance Based Reporting. This is our third conference this year. We have arranged to participate in an audio conference each month through May 2009. Topics include: Internal Controls, 21st Century Financial Managers (Workforce Planning), XBLR to Improve Financial and Performance Reporting, Fraud, Auditing, Ethics

One of the many benefits of AGA membership is our Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) program. If you are interested in learning more about this professional certification program, please contact Jeff Toothaker at 624-7814 for more information.

Another benefit of membership is the networking opportunities. To gain the maximum benefit, please consider increasing your participation in Chapter events and activities. If you haven't attended any events this year, please consider joining us at our breakfast meeting, October 7th. We have a lot of great members and will warmly welcome your participation.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting,
Bill Fox, President, AGA-Maine Chapter

Welcome to our Newest Member!

Mark Fisher, DHHS

October Chapter Meeting

Join us for this month's featured speaker – **Jonathan Wayne**. Mr. Wayne is the Executive Director of the Commission on Government Ethics and Election Practices.

The Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices is an independent state agency that administers Maine's campaign finance laws, the Maine Clean Election Act, and the lobbyist disclosure law. It also issues advisory opinions and conducts investigations regarding legislative ethics.

If you have any suggestions on a topic that you'd like to hear about, please contact Connie Warren at 287-8640 or at Constance.Warren@Maine.gov.



Upcoming Audio Conferences

All audio conferences run from 2:00-4:00, and are held at the Central Maine Commerce Center, in the Frances Perkins Room. 2 CPEs are earned at each conference. For members, the cost is \$30 per session; or, \$200 for all ten. Non-members are charged \$40 per session.

To register, please contact Sue Hammer at 623-6747 or at Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov.

AGA Research Project on Performance Based Reporting
October 15

Internal Controls
November 12

21st Century Financial Managers (Workforce Planning)
December 10

XBRL to Improve Financial and Performance Reporting
January 21

Fraud
February 11

Internal Controls
March 11

Auditing
April 8

Ethics
May 13



Support for Meghan

Jane Horton is one of our fellow members, a Staff Accountant at the General Government Service Center, and co-worker and friend to many. In September, her daughter, Meghan, was in an automobile accident. Meghan, who is in her 20s, suffered a spinal cord injury. She is now beginning rehabilitation, and has been given a 50% chance of recovery.

Meghan will be in need of help, both emotionally and financially, as she begins her recovery. For those who would like to help, cards and donations can be sent to Capital Area Federal Credit Union. An account has been set up to help fund her medical expenses. Donations will be deposited to the account, and any cards and notes forwarded to Meghan. Donations should be made out to "For the benefit of Meghan Horton".

They can be mailed to:
Capital Area

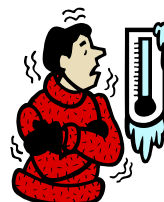
Federal Credit Union
c/o Diana Winkley, CEO
2010 No. Belfast Ave.
Augusta, ME 04330

Please keep Meghan in your thoughts and prayers.

Community Service Corner

By Donna Ferenc

Good day all: Just wanted to let you know the October Community Service Event is for The Bread of Life Homeless Shelter which provides for families in need.



With the price of fuel, gasoline, propane, wood (energy of all kinds), the need for assistance is anticipated to be high. As a result, the shelter is in need of warm winter items for adults and children. To assist, we are collecting socks, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens for adults and children. So, as you prepare and shop for the upcoming winter season, if you could grab one more package of socks, a hat or a pair of gloves it would be appreciated. Donations will be collected at the next AGA meeting on October 7, 2008.



Also, as a "heads up", the December Community Service Event will be "Adopt at-risk youths for Christmas". Details to follow shortly!

Thank you for your support and generosity,
Donna

Consumer Credit Protection Follow Up

Many thanks to **David Leach**, of the Consumer Credit Protection bureau, for his presentation last month on **Identify Theft**. The topic generated many questions and a lively discussion. Mr. Leach brought with him a few copies of the publications prepared by his agency. They were of great interest!

All of this information is available on the CCP website. Publications include "Consumer Credit 101", "Identity Theft", and the "Downeaster Guide to Credit Bureaus and Credit Reports".

FMI visit:

<http://www.maine.gov/pfr/consumercredit/publications.htm>



Treasurer's Report, as of September 30, 2008

Assets

Cash and Bank Accounts	
AGA Checking	\$ 413.52
AGA Savings	<u>6,199.81</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	6,613.33
Other Assets	
Customer Invoices	<u>373.00</u>
Total Other Assets	373.00
Total Assets	6,986.33

Liabilities

Other Liabilities	
Sales Tax	0.00
Business Bills	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Liabilities	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00
Overall Total	\$6,986.33

Submitted by Shirley Browne, Treasurer

Accounting Can Be Fun?

The Internet is full of great resources for accountants to keep up with the latest in the world of finance. The link below will take you to some interesting (and some fun!) blogs on accounting and related topics.

Topics include the "Skeptical CPA", "Accounting Jokes and Fun", "AGA Weblog", and "The Tech Gap".

<http://www.mbaexplorer.com/blog/2008/08/the-numbers-top-50-accounting-blogs/>

For a laugh, check out this *Whose Line Is It Anyway* clip of Wayne Brady singing odes to Accounting.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSranciXOvs>



From Our AGA National President - Samuel T. Mok

Samuel Tinsing Mok is the Managing Member of Condor International Advisors, LLC, a Washington DC based management consulting firm providing innovative business relationship management and business advisory services.

He served as the Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Department of Labor from January 2001 to May 2007. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in January 2002 after being appointed to the position by President George W. Bush. Previously he served as Managing Member of Condor Consulting LLC, Comptroller and the first career CFO of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Foreign Service Officer, and Captain in the U.S. Army. Additionally, he was the Director of Accounting for Time-Life Books and Treasurer of *U.S. News and World Report*.

With the election right around the corner, our country faces a time of significant transition to a new president, new governors and a new Congress. As we prepare to welcome a new administration, one of my top goals as AGA National President will be to ensure that AGA has a seat at the table in the areas of financial management, accountability, performance management and Citizen-Centric Reporting. This is a great opportunity for our Association to influence the next four years, and I hope we can make the best of it.

At the same time, we need to be thinking about AGA's future. After 20 plus years as an AGA member, including positions such as chapter president, I can say that AGA is now at its zenith in financial condition, membership service and program content. All this is made possible because of membership support, great chapter leadership and excellent national staff, especially the leadership of our Executive Director, Relmond Van Daniker, DBA, CPA. However, Van won't always be our executive director. So that we may keep up the wonderful progress and momentum we

have experienced in recent years, I will devote priority to ensuring that we have an effective executive succession plan in the National Office in place within the next six months. I will ask some of you to assist me with this endeavor.

Finally, I have asked Van to ensure that the internal control procedures within the AGA National Office are documented in a manner that meets the prevailing accountability standards applicable to not for profit organizations such as AGA. I will ask the Finance and Budget Committee to oversee this project and report progress to the National Executive Committee and National Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. AGA should strive to be the model of accountability for others.

I received the gavel a month later than many of our past National Presidents, so I hope to make the most of the time I have left before I hand off to Billy Morehead in New Orleans next June. I look forward to working with you this year, and I'm honored to serve as your 59th National President.

SENATOR MCCAIN AND OBAMA RELEASE JOINT STATEMENT ON THE ECONOMY

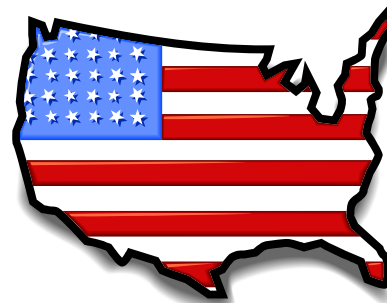
"The American people are facing a moment of economic crisis. No matter how this began, we all have a responsibility to work through it and restore confidence in our economy. The jobs, savings, and prosperity of the American people are at stake.

"Now is a time to come together -- Democrats and Republicans -- in a spirit of cooperation for the sake of the American people. The plan that has been submitted to Congress by the Bush Administration is flawed, but the effort to protect the American economy must not fail.

"This is a time to rise above politics for the good of the country. We cannot risk an economic catastrophe. Now is our chance to come together to prove that Washington is once again capable of leading this country."

Know the Candidates and the Issues

From US Budget Watch – learn more at
www.usbudgetwatch.org



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

The editors of the New England Journal of Medicine asked Senator John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, and Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential nominee, to describe their plans for reforming the U.S. health care system. Their statements follow. In order to explore their positions in greater depth, the Journal and the Harvard School of Public Health cosponsored a Perspective Roundtable on September 12, 2008, entitled "Health Care in the Next Administration" and featuring senior health policy advisors David Cutler for Senator Obama and Gail Wilensky for Senator McCain. A video of the symposium can be seen at www.nejm.org.

See the candidates' response at <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/NEJMp0807607v1.pdf>

2008-09 Maine Chapter Officers and Directors

President Bill Fox Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 624-7935 Bill.Fox@Maine.gov	Director of Bylaws and Procedures Suzanne Hammer Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6747 Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov	Director of Education Suzanne Hammer Security & Employment Svc. Ctr. (207) 623-6747 Suzanne.Hammer@Maine.gov
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Immediate Past President Jenny Boyden Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-5270 Jenny.Boyden@Maine.gov	Director of Community Service Donna Ferenc Dept. of Transportation (207) 624-3038 Donna.Ferenc@Maine.gov	Director of Prof. Certification Jeffrey Toothaker, CGFM Bureau of the Budget (207) 624-7814 Jeffrey.Toothaker@Maine.gov
Secretary Donna Wheeler Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-1860 Donna.Wheeler@Maine.gov	Director of Early Careers Darryl Stewart, CIA Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-5499 Darryl.Stewart@Maine.gov	Director of Programs/Technical Meetings Connie Warren Dept. of Health & Human Svcs. (207) 287-8640 Constance.Warren@Maine.gov
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Many thanks to webmaster Angela Dickinson, Office of the State Controller.

Thanks to GWI for sponsoring the Maine Chapter's website. Visit GWI at www.gwi.net.

